

The following is in response to the Order Returning Undocketed Appeal to Examiner by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences of August 7, 2007.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed March 5, 1999 cited Finnish Patent FI 10230. This reference was not listed on a form PTO-1449, nor was a copy of the reference provided by Applicant. Therefore, its consideration was not previously made of record. However, Applicant has disclosed that FI 10230 corresponds to U.S. Application Serial No. 08/925,321. FI 10230 has been considered in view of 08/925,321 in the manner discussed below.

The actual reference number is not FI 10230 but rather **FI 102301**. FI 102301 corresponds to patent family member U.S. Patent No. 6,776,876, which is equivalently serial number 08/925,321 indicated by Applicant. U.S. 6,776,876 has been considered by the examiner and made of record in the attached form PTO-892.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric Hug whose telephone number is 571 272-1192.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven Griffin can be reached on 571 272-1189. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Eric Hug
Primary Examiner